

JOURNAL

OF THE

New York Entomological Society

VOL. LVIII

MARCH, 1950

No. 1

HONORARY MEMBER ELECTED

At the annual meeting of the New York Entomological Society, January 3, 1950, Mr. Harry B. Weiss was elected to honorary membership. He has also been appointed editor emeritus. The following tribute was read at the annual meeting.

In recommending that there be conferred upon Harry B. Weiss the distinction of honorary membership—the highest within the power of the New York Entomological Society to bestow—it is fitting to cast a brief glance over the varied and significant services rendered to our science by this distinguished fellow member. Through his labors in the field, and in the study, and in such posts of high executive responsibility as Chief Inspector of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture from 1916 to 1920, as Chief of the Bureau of Statistics and Inspection, and subsequently as Director of the Division of Plant Industry from 1920 until the present, he has left an inspiring record of accomplishment.

He has coped not only with the practical problems of entomology, keeping abreast with up-to-date knowledge and modern technique, but he has never permitted the past to be forgotten. With tireless industry he searched the record of earlier centuries and culled therefrom items of entomological interest. Sometimes these items were merely bizarre, tending to emphasize the vast advance that our science has made since the time when men accepted ingenious fancy for established fact. Much oftener, however, the product of Weiss's research tended to emphasize the

APR 3 1950

continuity of effort over the years in building up, little by little, entomology as we know it today. Not only was he interested in entomology, he was also interested in entomologists. Studies such as he made of Thomas Say, Dru Drury, Jan J. Swammerdam, are cases in point. Yet in the aggregate he performed an even larger service in gathering information regarding a host of the lesser figures of entomology. By publishing accounts of them in his *Pioneer Century of American Entomology* and elsewhere, he gave these earlier workers, in a field that is today our heritage, their place in history.

Although Weiss used as channels of publication several of the leading scientific journals, and even in some cases printed his contributions privately, it was through the *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* above all others that he disseminated his researches. The members of this society will lastingly think of him not only as a brilliant contributor to our periodical but especially as its perfect editor, a role he carried with distinguished success for a quarter of a century.

When Weiss took over the editorship of our *Journal* in June 1924, he had been preceded by several able editors. William Beutenmuller had served in that capacity from 1893, when the publication was launched, through 1903. He was succeeded by Harrison G. Dyar, whose editorship extended from 1904 through 1907. In 1908 William Morton Wheeler assumed responsibility and conducted the *Journal* until 1913. From 1913 to 1915 the *Journal* was entrusted to a Publication Committee, but this divided responsibility terminated in 1916, and in that year and subsequently through 1919 the *Journal* appeared under the editorship of Charles Schaeffer. From 1920 to 1924, when Weiss took over the direction of the magazine, Howard Notman was the editor.

To all of these men who carried the responsibilities of editorship the Society owes a debt of gratitude, and yet, if one were to estimate the services of Harry B. Weiss merely in terms of years,—a quarter of a century compared with a decade in the case of his nearest rival—no one else could approach his long record of devotion. Yet it is not merely the length of his

service that counts. His vigilance, his tact, his high editorial standards, his practical acumen that carried the Journal through the dismal years that followed 1929, through the trying period of the Second World War, and the perplexities of the present,—all of these qualities, in addition to his tireless labors in perfecting the contents of the Journal and making it as error-proof as possible, account for the fact that he occupies a place of almost unique distinction in our group. He has served the Society not only as Editor but as Vice President from 1921–1923 and again in 1941, and as President from 1923 to 1925 and again in 1942. It seems fitting that, as a culmination of his great contribution of thought and labor on behalf of the Society as well as his distinguished services to entomology in general, he be elected to honorary membership in our organization.—Herbert F. Schwarz.

Div. Insects
M. S. 11-1-50